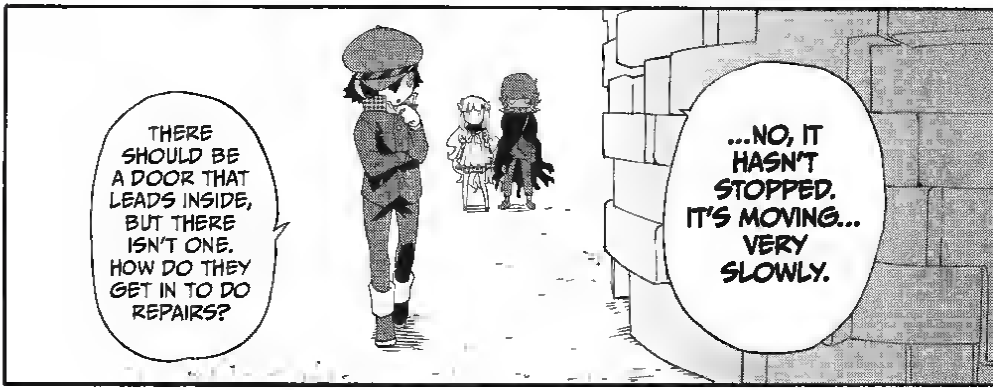
Chapter 6

YOU'RE INTERESTED IN THE CLOCK TOWER, SUPER SLEUTH?
...YES. YES, I AM.
SUPER SLEUTH ?

BUT IT'S SAID IT'S BEFORE MIDNIGHT SINCE BEFORE WE GOT HERE, SO I GUESS IT'S NOT MOVING.
I MEAN, I NEVER PAID MUCH ATTENTION TO THE CLOCK TOWER.
REALLY ?
OH, IT STILL SAYS BEFORE MIDNIGHT. SO IT IS STILL STOPPED.


THERE SHOULD BE A DOOR THAT LEADS INSIDE, BUT THERE ISN'T ONE. HOW DO THEY GET IN TO DO REPAIRS?
...NO, IT HASN'T STOPPED. IT'S MOVING... VERY SLOWLY.

WE NEVER HAD ANYTHING LIKE THIS AT YASOGAMI HIGH.
REALLY ?
HEY, DOESN'T HAVING THIS GIANT THING IN THE MIDDLE OF YOUR SCHOOL GET IN THE WAY?
MAYBE ITS REVOLUTION SPEED IS INACCURATE BECAUSE THEY CANNOT DO REPAIRS.

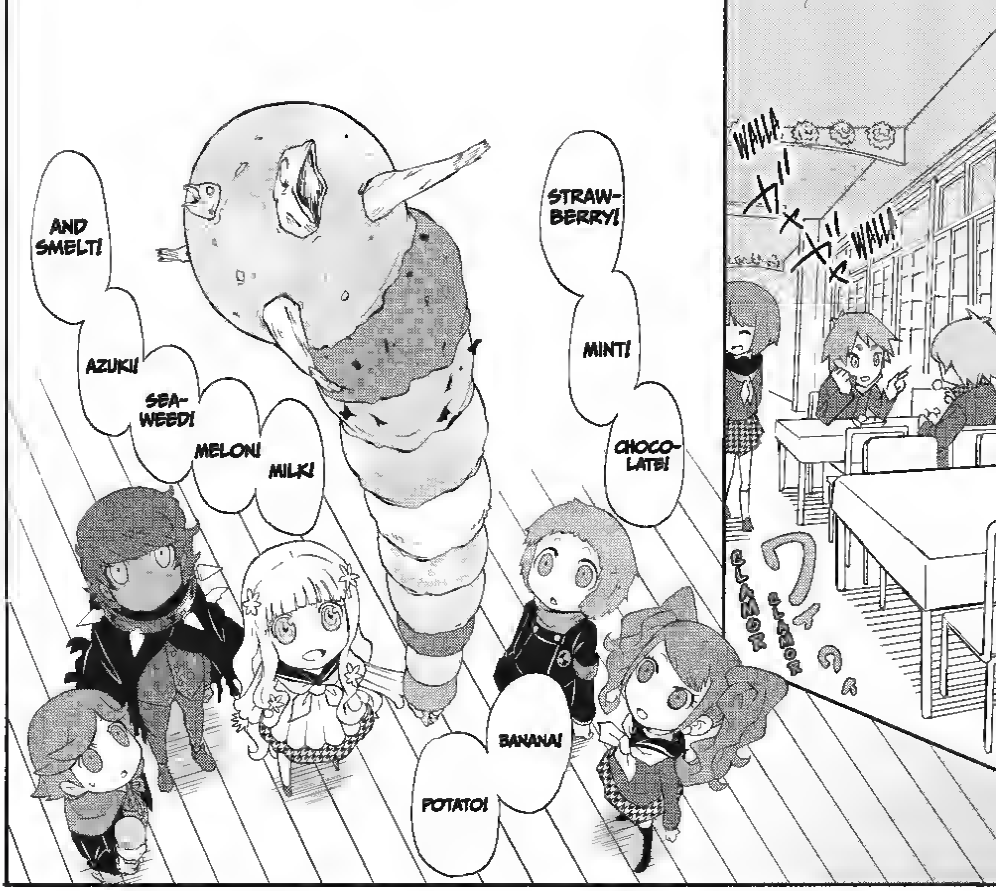
...OH! I THINK THAT'S RIGHT!
AND I THINK THEY TORE IT DOWN BEFORE WE STARTED GRADE SCHOOL.
BUT IT WAS MORE OF A SMALL MONUMENT THAN AN ACTUAL CLOCK-TOWER.
NO, I HEARD FROM THE PRINCIPAL THAT THERE DID USED TO BE A CLOCK-TOWER AT YASOGAMI HIGH SCHOOL.
ALTHOUGH I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT LOOKED LIKE.
IN A PLACE WHERE THERE ARE SHADOWS, YOU SHOULDN'T TRY TOO HARD TO APPLY COMMON SENSE.
WHAT? YOU SERIOUS?
...MAYBE WE DID.
THEN MAYBE WE WENT THROUGH A TIME WARP! ...OR SOMETHING.
SO THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN MORE THAN TEN YEARS AGO.
WHAT? YOU GUYS DON'T GO IN THE TV?
THEN WHERE DO YOU SEE SHADOWS?
THE TV... YOU SAID SOMETHING ABOUT THAT BEFORE. WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
AND WE DON'T NEED GLASSES.
IT IS PRETTY WEIRD. I DON'T REMEMBER GOING THROUGH THE TV.

...YOU DON'T KNOW OF THE DARK HOUR?
THE DARK HOUR IS A "HIDDEN HOUR" THAT OCCURS EVERY NIGHT AT MIDNIGHT.
IF YOU GO TO TARTARUS DURING THE DARK HOUR... OH, RIGHT. WE'RE SUPPOSED TO BE THE ONLY ONES IN TARTARUS.
FIRST YOU HAVE TO TELL ME WHAT THE DARK HOUR IS.
WHICH MEANS... WHAT DO YOU GUYS DO DURING THE DARK HOUR?
DURING THAT TIME, SHADOWS APPEAR IN A TOWER THAT WE CALL TARTARUS.
AND EVERY TIME THERE'S A FULL MOON, AN ESPECIALLY LARGE SHADOW APPEARS.
WE'RE TRACKING DOWN A MURDERER.
SO WHAT DO YOU...?
WE ARE FIGHTING TO DEFEAT THOSE SHADOWS AND ELIMINATE THE DARK HOUR.
...SOUNDS LIKE YOUR THING'S A LOT DIFFERENT THAN OURS.

THE WORLD INSIDE THE TV IS FULL OF SHADOWS.
THE MURDERER KILLS HIS VICTIMS BY PUTTING THEM INSIDE THE TV.
THERE'S BEEN A SERIES OF MURDERS IN OUR HOMETOWN, YASOINABA.
A...
A MURDERER?!
ACTUALLY, TEDDIE HERE IS FROM THERE.
I'M LIKE TEDDIE?
...THAT'S JUST LIKE ZEN AND REI.
YOU LIVED IN A WORLD FULL OF SHADOWS?
THEN CAN I GO TO THE OUTSIDE WORLD WITH ALL OF YOU, LIKE HE DID?
THEN WHEN YOSUKE AND HIS PALS SHOWED UP, I WENT TO THE OUTSIDE WORLD.
I LIVED INSIDE THE TV.

GRIN
ニヨ…!
BUT WHEN I GOT THERE, IT WAS SO MUCH FUN I WISHED I'D THOUGHT OF IT SOONER.
I NEVER EVEN FELT LIKE LEAVING UNTIL YOSUKE AND HIS FRIENDS CAME ALONG!
PAWS-ITIVELY!
…INDEED.
WE'RE THE SAME! I NEVER FELT LIKE GOING HOME UNTIL EVERYONE CAME HERE, EITHER!
SO IN THIS WORLD IN THE TV, IF YOU'RE THERE ON A FOGGY DAY, YOUR OWN SHADOW WILL ATTACK YOU, AND YOU'LL DIE.
WE'RE HAVING AN IMPORTANT DISCUSSION! STAY OUT OF IT!
BOO! BOO!
WAIT A MINUTE, ZEN! ARE YOU SAYING YOU DON'T LIKE BEING LIKE ME?!
YOU SHOULD BE HONORED TO BE COM-BEARED TO SUCH A BELOVED BOY!

THERE ARE STILL MANY THINGS WE DON'T KNOW...BUT WE WILL CATCH THE KILLER.
ARE YOU SAYING THE KILLER IS USING A PERSONA ABILITY TO COMMIT THE CRIMES?
...AND YOU CAN PUT OTHER PEOPLE INSIDE.
YOU CAN GO INSIDE THE TV IF YOU HAVE THE ABILITY TO USE A PERSONA.
AND THAT MEANS WE KNOW ALMOST NOTHING ABOUT THIS WORLD.
AT ANY RATE, THIS ISN'T INSIDE THE TV, AND I SUSPECT IT ISN'T YOUR "TARTARUS", EITHER.
OUR REASONS FOR FIGHTING ARE QUITE DIFFERENT.
OH! HEY, CAN I MAKE A SUGGES-TION?
HMM... THEN LET US HURRY ONWARD.
I THOUGHT THIS CLOCKTOWER MIGHT HAVE A HINT...BUT IF WE CAN'T GO INSIDE, WE CAN'T INVESTIGATE.
I BELIEVE WE SHOULD STOP TRYING TO APPLY WHAT'S NORMAL FOR US, AND LEARN THE RULES OF THIS WORLD.


AND SMELT!
AZUKI!
SEA-WEED!
MELON!
MILK!
STRAW-BERRY!
MINT!
CHOCO-LATE!
BANANA!
POTATO!
WALLA
WALL!
GLAMOR
GLAMOR

....
THEN I THINK "ENJOYING OURSELVES" WOULD GIVE US THE ENERGY WE NEED, DON'T YOU?
A PERSONA IS THE STRENGTH OF THE HEART, RIGHT?
HMM ...
RUSHING ALL THE TIME WILL JUST WEAR US OUT. I THOUGHT MAYBE WE COULD TAKE A LITTLE BREAK TO ENJOY THE FESTIVAL!
CHOMP
KINDA BITTER!

WALLA
WALLA
MITSUKU-SAN.
GO WITH-OUT ME.
OKAY! LET'S CONQUER THE FOOD STANDS! I THINK I SAW ONE SELLING TAKOYAKI!
WHAT, SHINJI? IS THIS TRUE?
HEY, LOOK AT YOU TALK! YOU LIKE FESTIVALS, DON'T YOU, SHINJIRO-SENPAI

I SEE.
THEN THE GOAL IS TO SHOOT THAT DOLL DOWN?
CHAK

HEH HEH.

PA-KONG

YOU'RE GOOD.
BULLS-EYE
ZA-BAM
KA-CHAK
RAPID FIRE!
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
BAM
SFLORCH
AIGIS
EVERY SHOT HIT ITS TARGET.

もぐ MUNCH
もぐ MUNCH
HOFF
YOU WON'T BEAT ME!
もぐ MUNCH
もぐ MUNCH
NOM もっ
NOM もっ
NOM もっ
NOM もっ
NOM もっ
NOM もっ
NOM もっ
NOM もっ
NOM もっ
NOM もっ

UM, STRAW-BERRY, KINAKO, AND... WHAT WAS IT?
YOSUKE! GET TEN MORE CHOCOLATE!
YEAH, YEAH, I GOT IT!
BUT COULD YOU SHOW A LITTLE RESTRAINT?!
SO FLUFFY ...
SAY SOMETHING TO HIM, KANJI...
SO FLUFFY ...
...

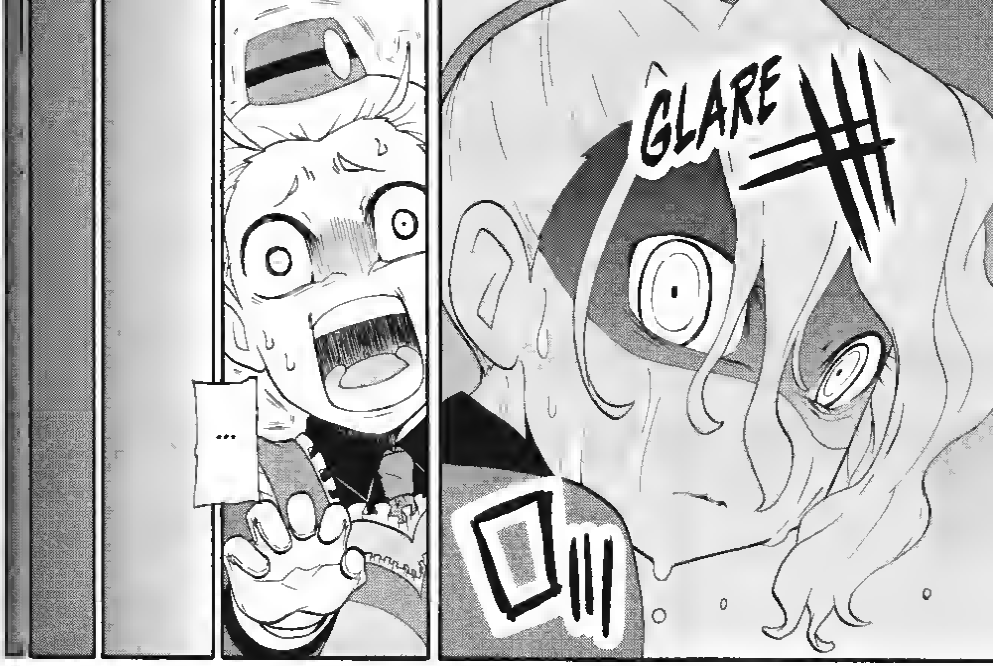
CLAMOR
CLAMOR

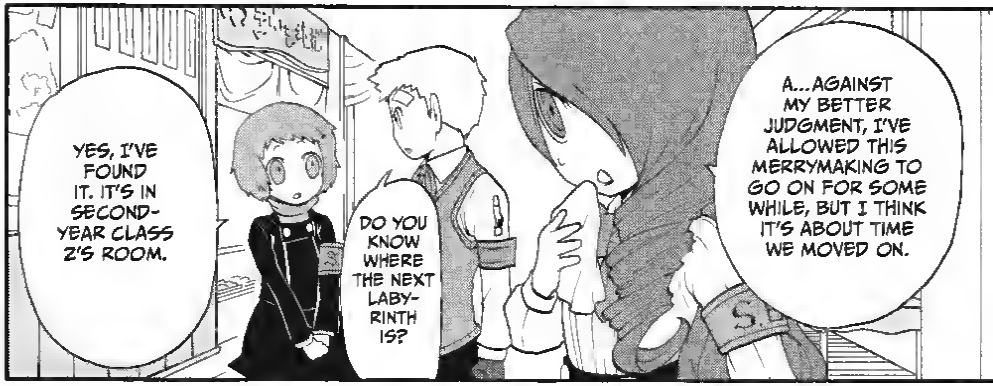
SNAP
ERK.

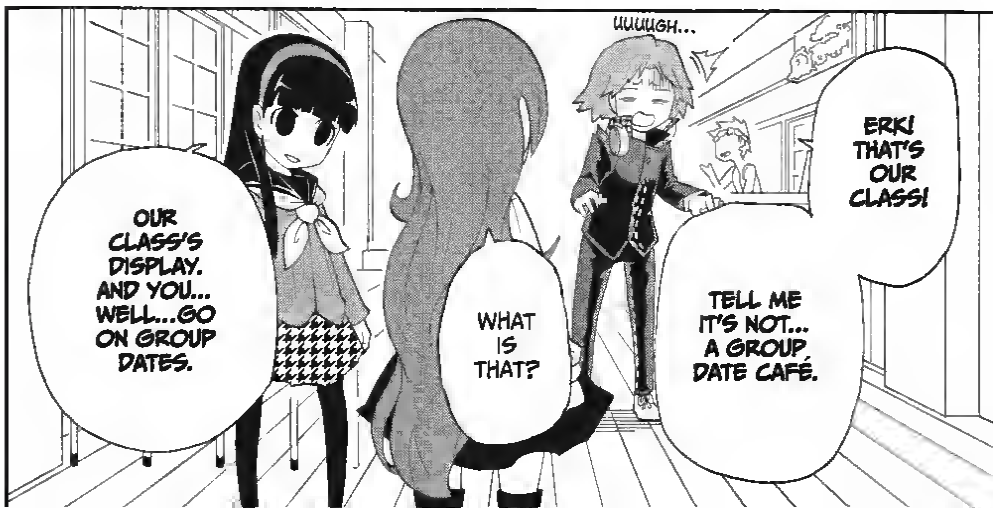
THAT'S PRETTY GOOD!
SO DID I!
OOH! I GOT TWO!

...
I-I'M SO SORRY...

CLAP
WHOA!
WA!
WHOOPS!
EEK!
SPLASH


GLARE
...

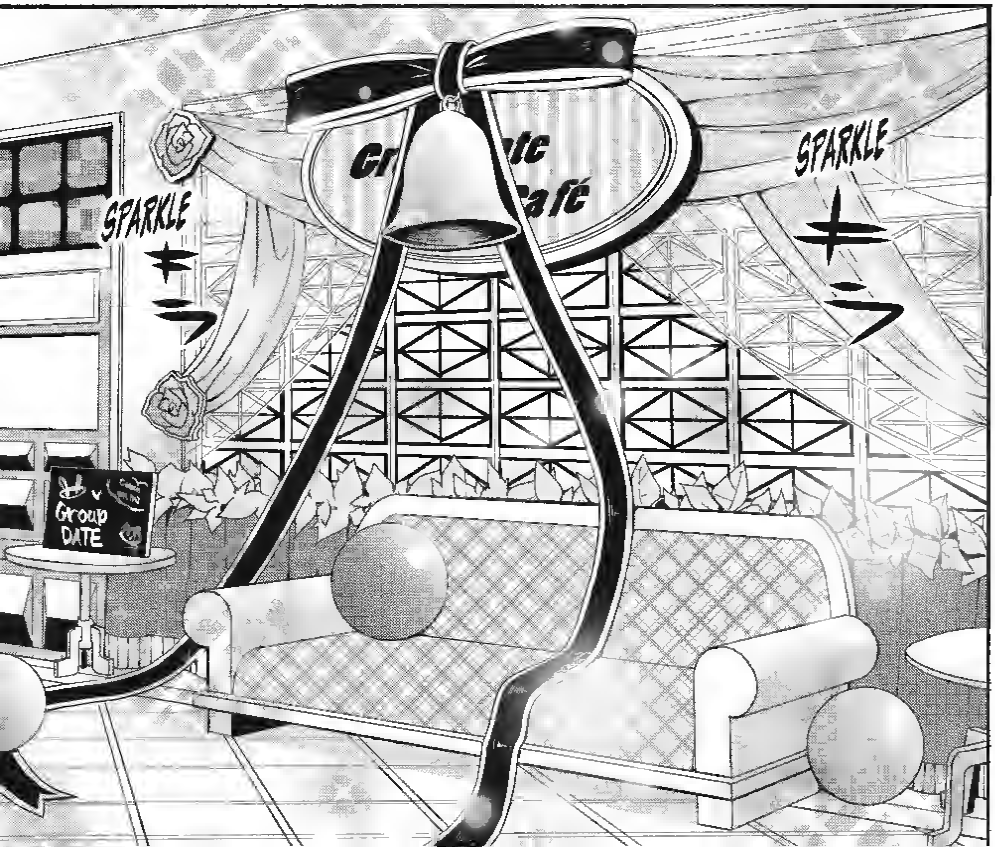

A...AGAINST MY BETTER JUDGMENT, I'VE ALLOWED THIS MERRYMAKING TO GO ON FOR SOME WHILE, BUT I THINK IT'S ABOUT TIME WE MOVED ON.
DO YOU KNOW WHERE THE NEXT LABY-RINTH IS?
YES, I'VE FOUND IT. IT'S IN SECOND-YEAR CLASS 2'S ROOM.


UUUUGH...
ERK! THAT'S OUR CLASS!
TELL ME IT'S NOT... A GROUP DATE CAFÉ.
WHAT IS THAT?
OUR CLASS'S DISPLAY. AND YOU... WELL...GO ON GROUP DATES.

A GROUP DATE...IS THE INTERSECTION OF DESTINY...
WHAT'S A... GROUP DATE?
GLOOM
I DON'T WANNA THINK ABOUT IT...
IS THAT FUN?
...
SERIOUSLY?! I WANNA GO TO YOUR SCHOOL!
INNUMERABLE HUNTERS OF LOVE GATHER IN ONE PLACE...
SEEKING OUT THE ONE IN THIS VAST UNIVERSE TO WHOM THEY ARE TIED BY A RED STRING...
THAT TOOK A SUDDEN SCARY TURN AT THE END...
BOIL
ROAST
EAT
OOOOH! SEEKING OUT THE ONE IN THIS VAST UNIVERSE TO WHOM THEY ARE TIED BY A RED STRING, 110 MILLION HUNTERS BOIL, ROAST, AND EAT PIGGIES?!

...I THINK I MAY UNDERSTAND.
AW, COME ON! IT'S REI-CHAN! I JUST CAN'T LEAVE HER ALONE!
AND HEY, TEDDIE! DON'T LIE TO REI-CHAN!! SHE'LL BELIEVE YOU!
BAH
はは
NO. NO, IT'S NOT.
HMM.
IN OTHER WORDS...A GROUP DATE IS A VERY REFINED EVENT.
N O
I POLITELY DECLINE.
I WON'T LEAVE YOU ALONE, EITHER, AI-CHAN!
MAY I ASK YOU OUT ON A DATE?
I DON'T KNOW, BUT I'D LIKE TO BELIEVE IT DOES.
DOES A RED STRING REALLY TIE YOU TO YOUR DESTINED PARTNER?

...EAT THIS STRING?
YOU WANT TO...
NO!
RIGHT, ZEN?
...YEAH! I JUST KNOW THERE'S A RED STRING!
GLANCE


SPARKLE
SPARKLE
GROUP DATE

GLOOM
WHY DID I HAVE TO BE RIGHT?
YOU DON'T HAVE TO RUB SALT IN THE WOUND.
WELL, LET'S GET GOING. WE GOT THREE MORE BIG GUYS TO BEAT, RIGHT?
THAT SHOULD BE RIGHT. AND IT'S POSSIBLE THAT I MAY REGAIN MY MEMORIES.
Intersection of Destiny
Group Date Café

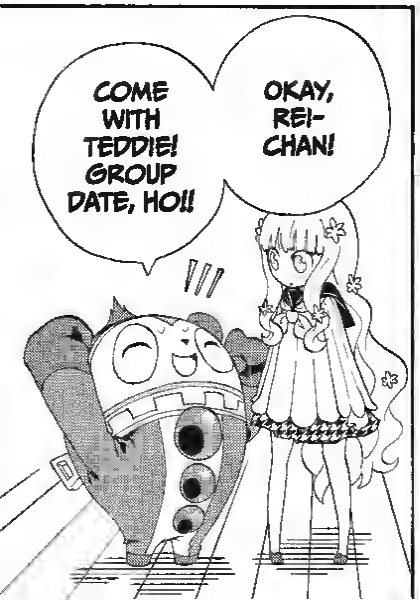
THE LOGICAL THING...
...WOULD BE TO CHOOSE EITHER OUR LEADER OR YOUR TEAM'S LEADER.
OH! IS IT MY TIME TO SHINE?!
NOW THAT WE'VE JOINED FORCES, WE SHOULD CHOOSE A NEW LEADER.
ALL RIGHT, THEN LET'S GO, LEADER... OH, RIGHT.

HA HA.
RIGHT.
I THINK YOU SHOULD BE THE LEADER.
YOUR TEAM FOUND ZEN AND REI FIRST.
AND YOU GUYS MADE IT TO THE END OF THE LABYRINTH WITH THEM FIRST, TOO.

I WILL.
THEN PLEASE CONTINUE TO... NO, BE OUR NEW LEADER. THE LEADER OF OUR COMBINED FORCES.
...I SEE. HE HAS A POINT.
SO I GUESS YOU GUYS HAVE MORE EXPERIENCE IN THIS WORLD.

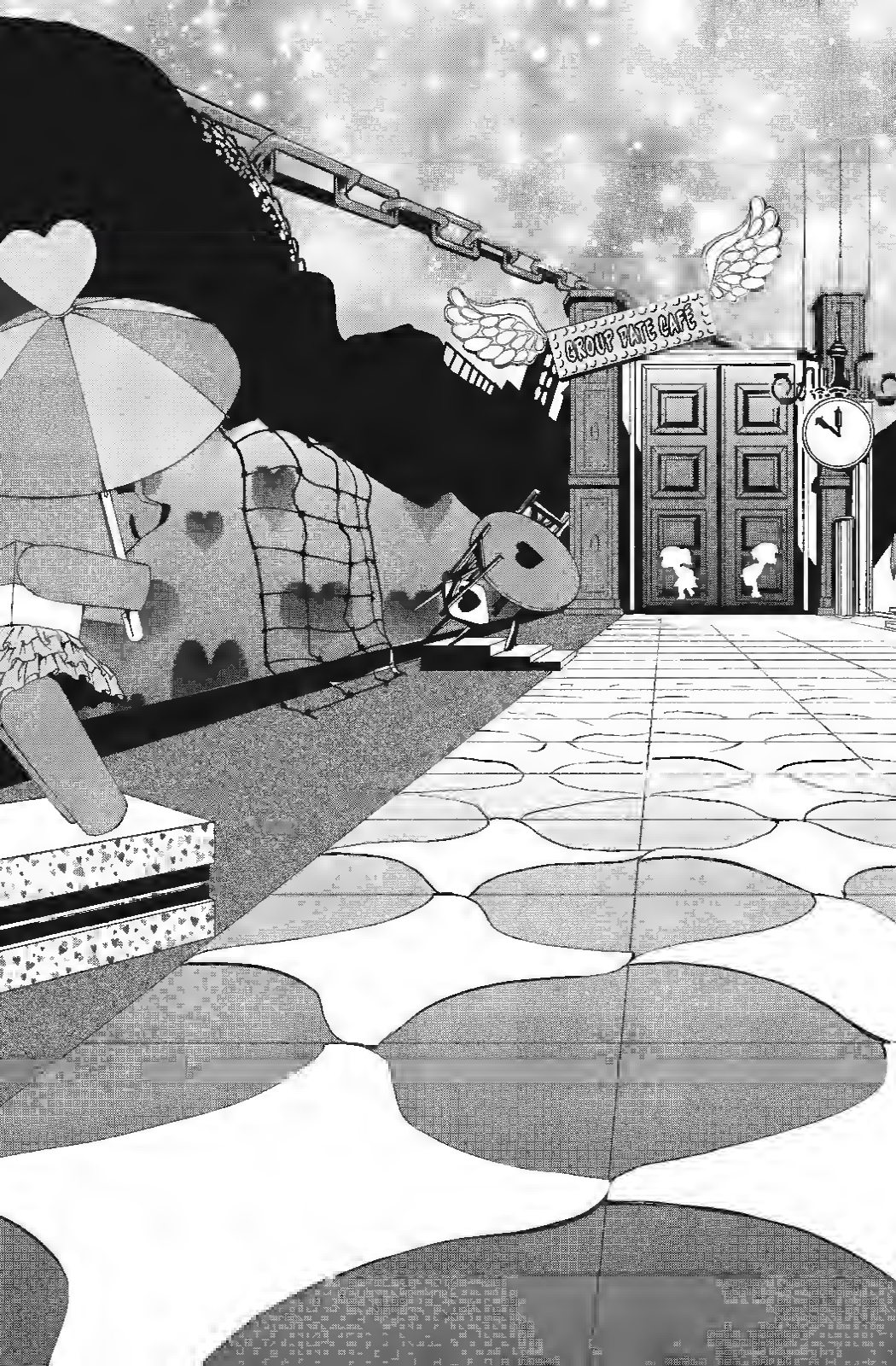
I-I'M OKAY...
I CAN GO.
ARE YOU SCARED ?

ZEN...
I KNOW. WE'LL MAKE YOU OUR VICE LEADER.
AND I HOPE YOU WILL SUPPORT OUR NEW LEADER.


COME WITH TEDDIE! GROUP DATE, HO!!
OKAY, REI-CHAN!

I'M GOING HOME... WITH EVERY-ONE.

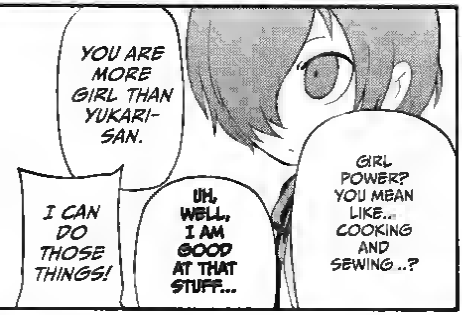
G-
GROUP DATE, HO!!
ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE OKAY?

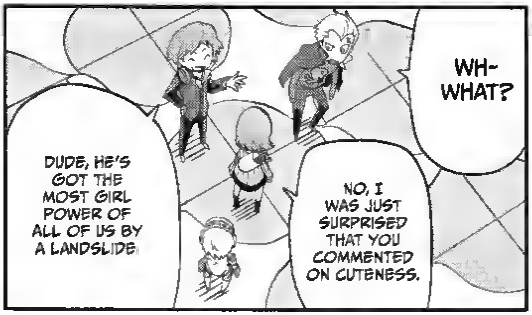

GROUP HATE CAFE

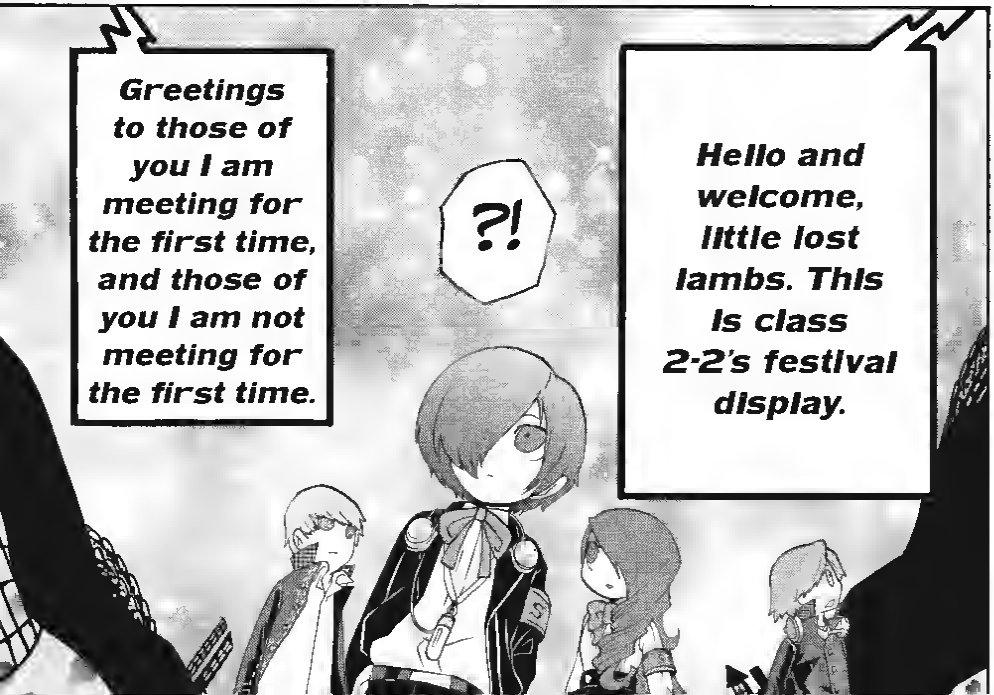
YOOHOO! CAN EVERYONE HEAR ME?
OH, THAT'S RISE-CHAN'S VOICE.

I'LL BE BACKING YOU UP FROM THE VELVET ROOM WITH FUUKA-CHAN
GOOD LUCK, GUYS!
HIMIKO

...
IT'S KIND OF...CUTE.
BUT HEY, THIS LABYRINTH ISN'T EXACTLY LIKE YOUR CLASS 2-2.

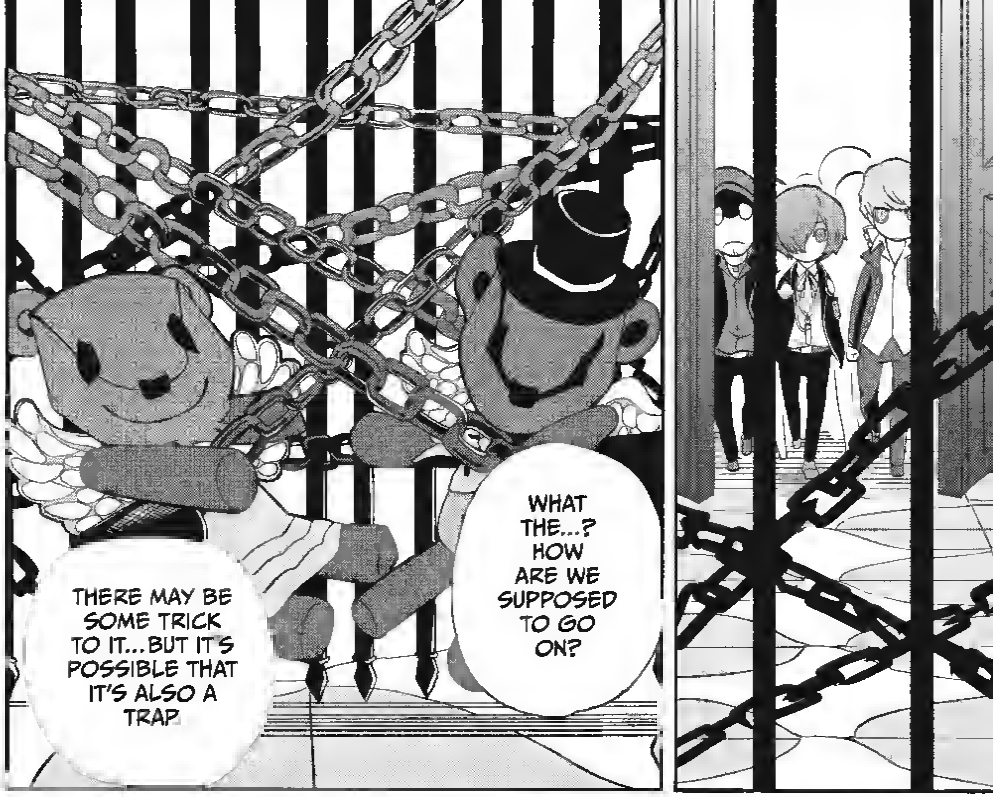

YOU ARE MORE GIRL THAN YUKARI-SAN.
I CAN DO THOSE THINGS!
UH, WELL, I AM GOOD AT THAT STUFF...
GIRL POWER? YOU MEAN LIKE... COOKING AND SEWING ..?


DUDE, HE'S GOT THE MOST GIRL POWER OF ALL OF US BY A LANDSLIDE.
NO, I WAS JUST SURPRISED THAT YOU COMMENTED ON CUTENESS.
WH-WHAT?


Greetings to those of you I am meeting for the first time, and those of you I am not meeting for the first time.
?!
Hello and welcome, little lost lambs. This is class 2-2's festival display.

WHAT THE HECK? LIKE WE ACTUALLY HAVE A CHOICE!
You may choose to do it, or you may choose not to.
At this display, you will discover your destined partner by answering some simple questions.
WHAT ?
SO WE DO GET TO FIND OUT...OUR DESTINED PARTNERS! ZEN! ZEN!
DUMMY? WHY?
UGH! YOU DUMMY!
REI-CHAN! YOUR DESTINED PARTNER IS RIGHT OVER HERE!
ISN'T THIS DISPLAY GOING TO TELL YOU?
WH-WHO DO YOU THINK...MY DESTINED PARTNER...
...IS GOING TO BE? WHO DO YOU THINK IT IS?
CHANCE
CHANCE

WHAT?! WHERE?!
...
IS-IS IT REALLY... ZEN...?
NO, NO! IT'S ME, TEDDIE!!
WHAT? NO, IT'S NOT!
KA-SHOCK
CREAK
ANYWAY, LET US PROCEED WITH CAUTION...
REI-CHAN!
SNIFFLE


WHAT THE...? HOW ARE WE SUPPOSED TO GO ON?
THERE MAY BE SOME TRICK TO IT...BUT IT'S POSSIBLE THAT IT'S ALSO A TRAP.

You have stepped into to the Selection Room of Destiny
YOU AGAIN? SO IS THIS THE THING WHERE WE FIND OUR "DESTINED PARTNERS"?
I will ask some simple questions of destiny. Answer based on your intuition.
There are several questions. If you answer all of them, you will discover your destined partner.
Well then, let's get right to Question Number One.

AS LONG AS YOU HAVE LOVE, THERE IS NO OBSTACLE THAT CAN'T BE OVERCOME!
UH, NO, THERE IS.
No.1: Does a difference in age or sex not matter as long as there is love?
IS THERE, ISN'T THERE, LEADER?
I THINK... IT DOES MATTER.
...?
...
CLANK
SO THE DOOR OPENS HEN YOU ANSWER THE QUESTION.
THAT'S RELATIVELY SIMPLE.

WE'LL LEAVE ALL THE QUESTIONS TO YOU, LEADER.
OKAY...
!
OHO! SO IF WE KEEP GOING, WE'LL FIND TEDDIE'S DESTINED PRINCESS!
DIDN'T YOU JUST SAY SEX DOESN'T MATTER?
...ERK...
SO IS THIS LABYRINTH A PIECE OF CAKE OR WHAT?
ヒソ
...
ピタ
HALT
WHAT'S WITH ALL THE SPIKES ?!
THIS IS THAT THING, ISN'T IT?! IT'S IN DUNGEONS ALL THE TIME--YOU LOSE HEALTH WHENEVER YOU WALK OVER IT!
GLINT
GLINT

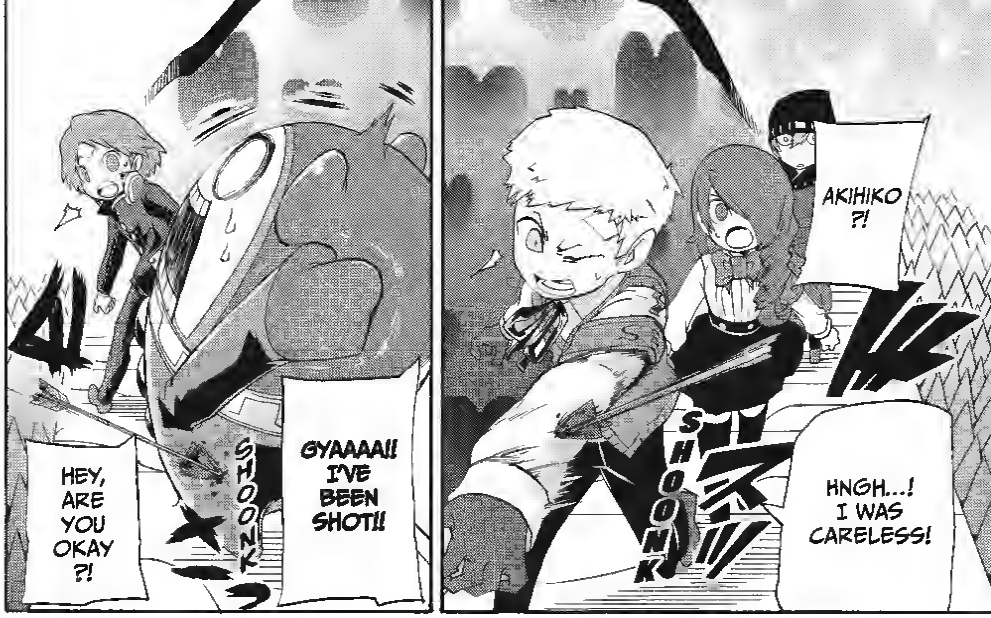
HEY. AREN'T WE GOING TO LOOK FOR TEDDIE'S DESTINED PARTNER?
WHAM
HUH?!
NWAH?!
HUH?
YANK
HEY! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
WHOOPSY!
WA-WA-WAH?! IT'S ALL PRICKLY...!
~~~?!!
SHOONK
FSH
FSH
OH! JUNPEI-KUN AND TEDDIE AND LEADER HAVE LOST SOME ENERGY!
SO IT DOESN'T DEAL DAMAGE DIRECTLY...IT WEARS DOWN OUR ENERGY LEVELS INSTEAD.
WHOA, JUNPEI! ARE YOU OKAY?!
UH...YEAH. IT DOESN'T HURT... BUT I FEEL KINDA... SLUGGISH AND TIRED.
~~~

THERE'S SOMETHING AWFULLY FISHY ABOUT THAT...
IT DOESN'T MATTER. THE ONLY WAY FORWARD IS THROUGH HERE.
WELL IF IT IS A TRAP, THEN BRING IT ON.

BE CAREFUL EVERYONE! THERE'S AN FOE NEARBY!
AN FOE?! YOU MEAN ONE OF THOSE CRAZY STRONG SHADOWS?
WHERE DO YOU SEE AN...
ヒィコ!!!
HOP

LOOK! IT'S GOING TO SHOOT AT US.
STRETCH
WHAT ?!
THAT'S THE FOE!!
LA
LA
WHAT IS THAT?

WATCH OUT! EVERYONE, DODGE!!
Z-ZOOM
KUN
KUN

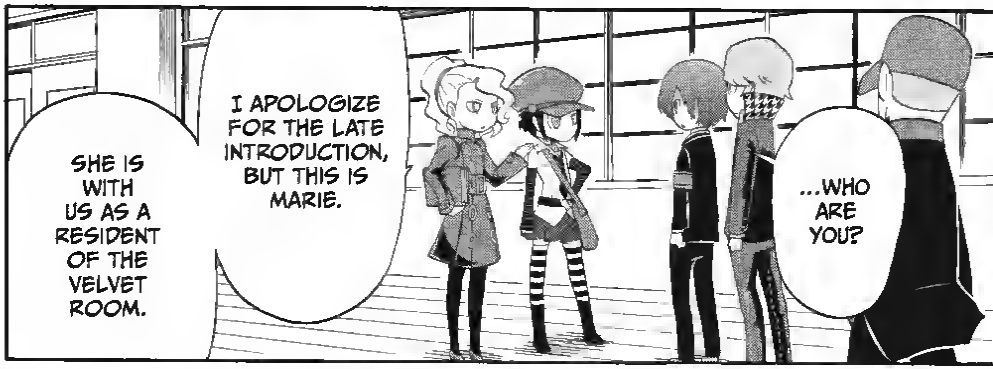

HEY, ARE YOU OKAY ?!
SHOONK
GYAAAA!! I'VE BEEN SHOT!!
AKIHIKO ?!
SHOONK
HNGH...! I WAS CARELESS!

...?
WHAT?! WAIT! WHY ARE YOU TURNING BACK?!
DAMMIT... LET'S GET THROUGH HERE AND GET SOME PAYBACK.
FLEX
FLEX
SNAP
THERE'S NO REAL PAIN. IT WAS JUST A BLUFF.

UH THINGS ARE LOOKING PRETTY WEIRD UP AHEAD.
BONK
BONK
NO, FORWARD IS THIS WAY!! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
HUH?! WHY IS THERE A WALL IN FRONT OF ME?! I CAN'T GO FORWARD !!

THIS IS JUST A THEORY.
BUT WHAT IF THAT FOE'S ARROWS AFFECT YOUR SENSE OF DIRECTION?
THEN THEY'RE IN TROUBLE! THERE'RE SPIKES OVER THERE...
AND SURE ENOUGH !!
I'M GETTING KINDA TIRED.
RIGHT IS... FORWARD AND BACKWARDS IS LEFT?
W-WE CAN'T LET THIS GO ON! RETREAT FOR NOW!
WE'RE TAKING YOU BOTH TO THE NURSE'S OFFICE!
THAT LABYRINTH IS MORE DRAINING THAN I THOUGHT, MENTALLY AND PHYSICALLY.
I'M SO TIRED...
!
...?

...WHAT?


SHE IS WITH US AS A RESIDENT OF THE VELVET ROOM.
I APOLOGIZE FOR THE LATE INTRODUCTION, BUT THIS IS MARIE.
...WHO ARE YOU?

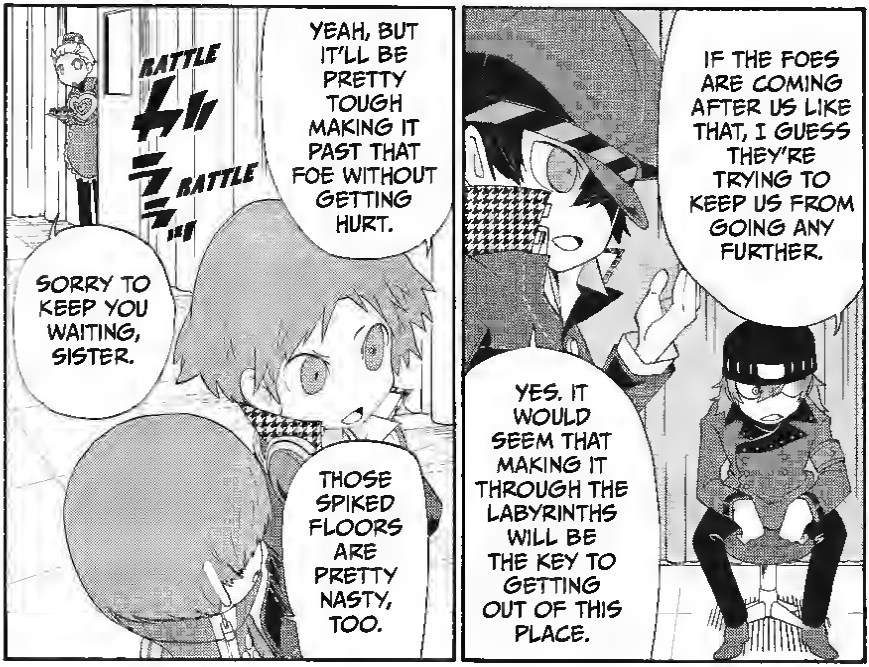
...THIS IS A FLUFFY DOG.
WHAT'S GOING ON? THERE ARE TOO MANY OF YOU, AND YOUR PERSONALITIES ARE OVERLAPPING.
I AM NOT. I JUST HAPPENED TO BE HERE.
...YOU'RE A RESIDENT?
MARIE-CHAN?! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?!

...YOU SEE HOW SHE IS, BUT I BELIEVE SHE MAY BE OF SERVICE TO YOU.
IF THERE IS ANYTHING YOU DO NOT KNOW, PLEASE DO NOT HESITATE TO ASK MARIE FOR HELP.
WHAT? IF THEY NEED ODD JOBS DONE, THEY CAN ASK THEO. YOU NEVER SAID ANYTHING ABOUT THIS.
GULP
OF COURSE NOT. I'M SAYING IT NOW.
IF YOU GET BORED, WHY NOT WRITE SOME OF THOSE POEMS YOU'RE SO FOND OF?
WHA...?!

POEMS?! WHAT?! I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT POEMS!
TREMBLE...
TH-THOSE ARE... JUST NOTES WRITTEN ABOUT OTHER WORLDS! THEY'RE NOT MINE! AND HOW DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THEM?
TREMBLE...
I SEE. YOU ARE PASSIONATE ABOUT YOUR WORK. THEN I WILL LEAVE YOU TO IT.
NNNGH... STUPID...

WHAT'S A... POEM?
THEY'RE NOT POEMS. THEY'RE THE CRIES OF MY PATHOS.
PATHOS ...!
ZEN, ZEN! PATHOS IS SO COOL!
...IS IT?
OH, WHAT'LL I DO?! THE DONUT I JUST INHALED WAS SO DELICIOUS!
GOOD FOR YOU.

IF AKIHIKO AND TEDDIE REST HERE, THEY WILL RECOVER IN NO TIME.
I SEE THAT THE DIFFICULTY LEVEL HAS RISEN AS YOU HAVE PROGRESSED THROUGH THE LABYRINTHS.
YES... THIS WILL NOT BE A SIMPLE MATTER OF GOING FROM POINT A TO POINT B.


IF THE FOES ARE COMING AFTER US LIKE THAT, I GUESS THEY'RE TRYING TO KEEP US FROM GOING ANY FURTHER.
YES. IT WOULD SEEM THAT MAKING IT THROUGH THE LABYRINTHS WILL BE THE KEY TO GETTING OUT OF THIS PLACE.
YEAH, BUT IT'LL BE PRETTY TOUGH MAKING IT PAST THAT FOE WITHOUT GETTING HURT.
RATTLE
RATTLE
SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING, SISTER.
THOSE SPIKED FLOORS ARE PRETTY NASTY, TOO.

I SEE. THAT IS TROUBLE-SOME...
I BROUGHT YOUR TAKO-YAKI...
?
ARROWS... YOU SAY?
...
OUR ONLY OPTION IS TO BLOCK THE FOE'S ARROWS WITH OUR PERSONAS.
REQUEST?
MIGHT I MAKE A REQUEST OF YOU?
EVERY-ONE.

To Be Continued